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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

REGISTRATION, TITLING & SAFETY ACT DIGEST

This brochure is only a guide to the highlights of the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act. The entire Act may be found in the Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 95½. More complete information is available from Department of Conservation Regional Offices or from Law Enforcement Division personnel. The information in this brochure is based on laws in effect as of January, 1986 and is subject to change.

To register and title your boat, you must submit a watercraft application, required documents and the appropriate fee. Applications are available from Conservation Regional offices, Conservation officers and boat dealers. If you have any questions regarding registration and titling call:

217-782-2138

— PREPARE —

Boat safety education is a positive move toward a safe and enjoyable boating future. Enroll in a Boat Safety Course now. For information on class locations call 217-782-6431.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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**Illinois
Department of
Conservation**
life and land together

ARTICLE 1. DEFINITIONS

Vessel or Watercraft means every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

Motorboat means any vessel propelled by machinery, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion.

Sailboat means any watercraft propelled by sail or canvas, including sailboards.

Waters of this State means any water within the jurisdiction of this State.

Application and Jurisdiction: The Department shall, for the purposes of this Act, have full and complete jurisdiction of all waters within the boundaries of the State of Illinois.

ARTICLE 2. INSPECTION

Agents of the Department of Conservation or other duly authorized police officers may board and inspect any boat at any time for the purpose of determining if this Act is being complied with.

ARTICLE 3 & 3A. REGISTRATION & TITLING

Boats which must be registered and titled: Every motorboat [regardless of length] and every sailboat [over 12 feet in length], other than sailboards, operated on the waters within the jurisdiction of this state shall be registered and titled.

Boats exempted from registration and titling: A motorboat, or sailboat over 12 feet in length, shall not be required to be registered and titled under this Act if it is:

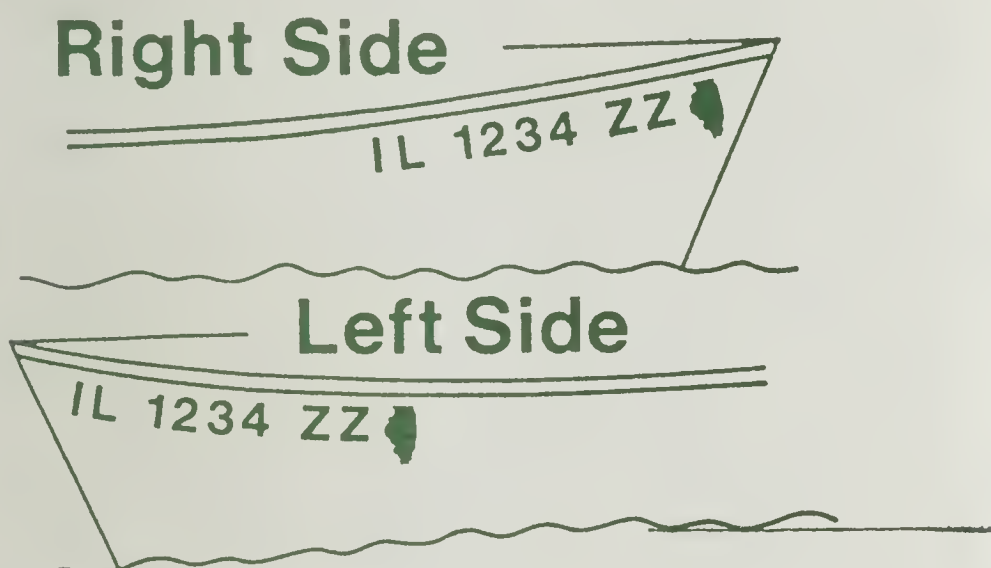
1. A documented boat with a valid Marine document issued by the United States Coast Guard.
2. Already covered by a number in full force and effect from another State, if such boat will not be used within this State for a period in excess of 60 consecutive days.
3. A sailboard.
4. A ship's lifeboat.

Registration-Title Application: The owner of each motorboat [regardless of length], or sailboat [over 12 feet in length], requiring registration and titling by this State shall file a watercraft application with the Department. The application shall be signed by the owner of the boat and shall be accompanied by the required documents [new boats: you must surrender the original properly endorsed Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin; Boats previously registered or titled in another State: you must surrender the owner's registration certificate and/or title; Illinois titled boats: you must surrender the owner's Illinois title] and appropriate fee.

Warning: Boats purchased new or used from out of state dealers or manufacturers may be subject to additional tax. Law requires such applications to be forwarded to the Illinois Department of Revenue before processing by the Department of Conservation. Enclose copy of bill of sale showing amount of tax paid.

Title and Certificate of Number: The certificate of title shall be mailed to the lienholder or, if none, to the owner. The certificate of number shall be mailed to the owner, be pocket size and be available at all times for inspection on the boat for which issued, whenever such boat is in operation

Registration Number Display: The owner shall paint on or attach to both sides of the bow (front) of the boat the registration number, which shall be of block characters at least 3 inches in height. The figures shall read from left to right, be of contrasting color to their background and be maintained in a legible condition. No other number shall be displayed on the bow. A space shall be provided between the IL and the number and another space between the number and the letters which follow.

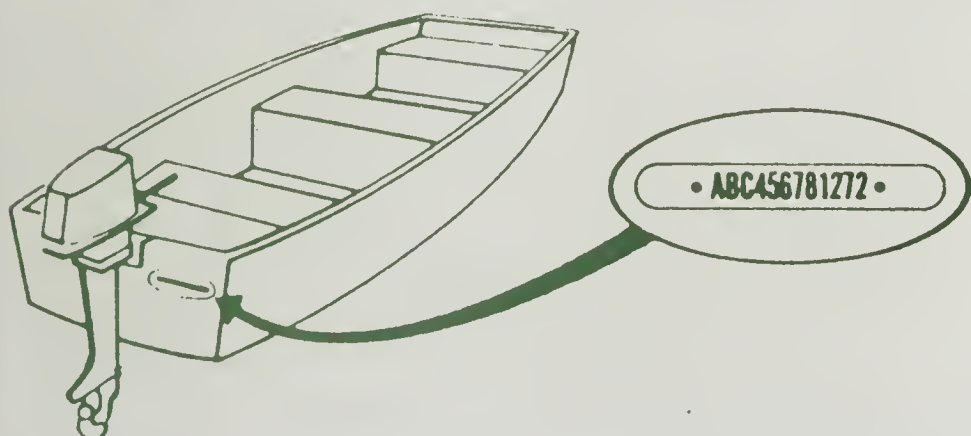


Hull Identification Number (HIN): Boats manufactured after 1972 will have a hull identification number consisting of 12 characters in one of the following three formats:

ABC456781273

ABC45678M73E

ABC45678A485



ARTICLE 4. BOAT EQUIPMENT

The Illinois boat Registration and Safety Act provides that the following equipment will be provided in various classes of boats.

- A. **Personal Flotation Devices (life preservers):** It is unlawful to operate any recreational boat less than 16 feet in length or a canoe or kayak unless at least one Coast Guard approved PFD of the following type or their equivalent is on board for each person: Type I, Type II, Type III, or Type IV.

Any recreational boat 16 feet or more in length must have at least one Coast Guard approved PFD of the following types or its equivalent for each person on board: Type I, Type II, or Type III. In addition, on recreational boats 16 feet or more in length, excluding canoe or kayak, at least one Type IV Coast Guard Approved PFD must be on board as a throwable device. When assisting a person on water skis, aquaplane or similar device, there must be one U.S. Coast Guard approved lifesaving device on board for each person being assisted or towed. All such PFD's mentioned in this section must be readily accessible, in serviceable condition, of an appropriate size for the person for whom it is intended, and legibly marked with the U.S. Coast Guard approval number.

- B. **Lights:** Every vessel shall carry and display when underway between the hours of sunset and sunrise such lights as shall be required by the United States Coast Guard for watercraft of equivalent length and type.
- C. **Mufflers:** All motorboats except those actually competing in a race or regatta shall be equipped with an "adequate muffling" device.
- D. **Whistles:** It is unlawful to operate a motorboat without a mouth, hand, or power operated whistle, horn, or other appliance capable of producing a blast of 2 seconds or more duration and audible for at least one half mile. This regulation applies to all motorboats, regardless of size or motor.
- E. **Fire Extinguisher:** It is unlawful to operate a motorboat anywhere in this State without at least one U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher so placed as to be readily accessible and in such condition as to be ready for immediate and effective use. This regulation applies to all motorboats regardless of size of motor.
- F. **Carburetor Arrestors:** Except for outboard motors, all motorboats shall be fitted with a Coast Guard approved device for arresting backfire.

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C. G. 3 **Ventilators:** Except for open boats, all motorboats having a flash-point of 110 degrees fahrenheit or less shall have at least 2 ventilator ducts, fitted with cowls or their equivalent, for the efficient removal of explosive or flammable gases from the bilges of every engine and fuel tank compartment. There shall be at least one exhaust duct installed so as to extend from the open atmosphere to the lower portion of the bilge and at least one intake duct installed so as to extend to a point at least midway to the bilge or at least below the level of the carburetor air intake. The cowls shall be located and trimmed for maximum effectiveness and in such manner so as to prevent displaced fumes from being re-circulated.

- H. **Siren and Flashing Lights:** The use of sirens or flashing lights shall be unlawful except on duly designated patrol boats, and such sirens or flashing lights used in violation of the Boating Act shall be considered a public nuisance and subject to confiscation and disposal as determined by a competent court of jurisdiction.
- I. **Capacity Plates:** Boats purchased after January 1, 1968 must have affixed permanently a manufacturer's capacity plate.
- J. **Battery Covers:** Storage batteries shall be provided with suitable supports and secured against shifting. Batteries shall be equipped with non-conductive shielding means to prevent accidental shorting.

ARTICLE 5. OPERATION OF BOATS

- A. **Careless and Reckless Operation:** No person shall operate any vessel or manipulate any water skis in such a manner as to be grossly indifferent to the person or property of another person or in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb or damage the property of another person, or at a rate of speed greater than will permit him the exercise of reasonable care to bring the motorboat to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.
- B. **Sailboats and Rowboats:** When a motorboat is approaching a boat propelled solely by sails or oars, the motorboat must yield the right of way to the sailboat or rowboat except, when a large craft is navigating in a confined channel, the large craft has the right of way over a boat propelled solely by oars or sails.
- C. **Restricted Areas:** No person shall operate a motorboat in a water area which has been clearly marked by buoys or signs as in bathing, fishing or otherwise restricted area, except in the manner prescribed by the buoys or signs marking the area. In areas designated as "No Wake" areas, no motorboat underway shall exceed 5 miles per hour while in the posted "No Wake" area.
- D. **Water Skiing:** When towing a person on water skis, aquaplane or similar device, at least two competent persons must be in the boat. It is unlawful to water ski from the period of one half hour after sunset to one-half hour prior to sunrise.

E. **Intoxication:** No person shall operate a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or any other drug to the degree which renders them incapable of safely operating such watercraft. Persons arrested for this offense are required to submit to the same chemical tests as would be required for operation of motor vehicles while under the influence, at the arresting officer's direction. If a person refuses to submit to a test as requested by a law enforcement officer, his/her boating privileges may be suspended for a period of at least one year.

F. **Age of Operator:**

1. No person under 10 years of age may operate a motorboat.
2. Persons at least 10 years of age and less than 12 years of age may operate a motorboat only if:
 - a. they are accompanied on the motorboat and under the direct control of a parent or guardian.
3. Persons at least 12 years of age and less than 18 years of age may operate a motorboat only if:
 - a. they are accompanied on the motorboat and under the direct control of a parent or guardian or
 - b. a person at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian or
 - c. such motorboat operator is in possession of a Boating Safety Certificate issued by the Department of Conservation, Division of Law Enforcement, authorizing the holder to operate motorboats.
4. Violations of this Section done with the knowledge of a parent or guardian shall be deemed a violation by the parent or guardian and punishable under Chp. 95½ Act. XI, Sec. 6 of the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act.

ARTICLE 6. BOAT ACCIDENT REPORTS

Whenever a boat is involved in a collision or accident causing injury or death to persons or property damage of \$100.00, a report must be made to the Department.

All boating accidents which result in death or serious injury to any person shall be reported by the operator within 48 hours. All other accidents shall be reported within 5 days. The report will be confidential and without prejudice to the individual reporting. Forms for the reporting of accidents in the above categories may be obtained from your local Conservation Officer or from the Department.

The Department of Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap in admission to, or treatment or employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Employment Opportunity Officer is responsible for compliance and may be reached at 217/782-7616.